

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION STAMP PROMOTION ACT

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 1998*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Promotion Act. I am proud to be joined by my fellow Sportsmen's Caucus co-chairman Representative JOHN TANNER and the distinguished members of the Migratory Bird Conservation Committee, Representative JOHN DINGELL and Representative CURT WELDON. This legislation will enable the Federal Duck Stamp office to use the Migratory Bird Conservation Funds (MBCF) to create a promotional program that will increase the sales of the duck stamps, just as the Postal Service uses its postage revenues to promote stamp sales and stamp collecting.

Since the Federal Duck Stamp was created on March 16, 1934, it has been one of America's most successful conservation initiatives. Since 1934, more than \$500 million has been raised through the purchase of Federal Duck Stamps. Indeed, 98 percent of the program's revenue has been dedicated to the purchase of prime wildlife habitat. It has made possible the purchase of more than 500 million acres of wildlife habitat benefiting waterfowl, other migratory birds, and wildlife in general.

Unfortunately, duck stamp sales have leveled off in recent years due to the absence of additional markets for the duck stamp. This act will permit a broader promotion of the stamp, increasing stamp revenues, that will allow more habitat to be purchased and protected.

This legislation is supported by the U.S. Federal Wildlife Service and the Federal Duck Stamp Office. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this legislation.

## RECOGNIZING SCOTT ELARTON

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary achievements of Scott Elarton who was recently called to pitch for the Houston Astros, a National League Baseball club. Elarton is the 22 year old son of L.D. and Mary Elarton of Lamar, Colorado.

Elarton, who was Valedictorian of the Lamar High School class of 1994 and forfeited a full-ride scholarship to Stanford in order to play professional baseball, has enjoyed success in the National Baseball League. He was 9–4 with a 4.01 ERA in 14 starts for the Class-AAA Pacific Coast League in New Orleans. In

his first four minor-League seasons, Elarton went 44–23 with a 3.50 ERA in 96 starts. His best season was 1996, when he was 12–7 with a 2.92 ERA at Kissimmee in the Class-A Florida State League. Last year in 20 starts at Jackson in the Double-A Texas League, Elarton was 7–4 with a 3.24 ERA and leading the league in strikeouts. Elarton also made headlines when, pitching in Puerto Rico during the winter, he threw the league's first no-hitter in 15 years against a lineup that featured eight major-league players.

Elarton pitched his first major-league game in Houston against the Cincinnati Reds on June 20. However, the Colorado native soon found himself back at home pitching against the Colorado Rockies in front of a crowd including three hundreds fans who traveled from Lamar to see their favorite player.

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District in Colorado, I am proud to recognize this fine young man for the excellence he has achieved in every aspect of his life. He is a tremendous example of the success found when hard work and dedication are coupled with integrity. He is an asset to his community as he serves as a role model for young men and women. I feel privileged to represent Scott Elarton and his family and congratulate them on this milestone.

## TAX CUT OPPORTUNITY

**HON. NEWT GINGRICH**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 1998*

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article, "Tax Cut Opportunity," written by Pete Du Pont for the June 18, 1998, edition of the Washington Times. This article notes the opportunity before us to reduce the tax burden on American citizens at this time of peace and prosperity.

[From the Washington Times, June 18, 1998]

### TAX CUT OPPORTUNITY

(By Pete Du Pont)

As any healthy liberal will tell you, in times of war, pestilence, recession or social disorder, government spending must increase to meet the challenge. And so taxes must increase as well to pay the costs of government intervention.

But what of good times? In times of peace, prosperity, growth and harmony, should government spending and taxes still increase?

Surely the answer is no. In good times the rate of government should shrink. And so it is time for a significant tax cut.

There are many ways to cut taxes: end the marriage penalty, reduce the capital gains tax rate, or eliminate death taxes, for example.

But the best way is to cut income tax rates across the board by 23 percent. Why that amount? Because that would bring tax revenues as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) back to what they were when President Clinton took office. But since govern-

ment tax receipts have increased 35 percent since 1993, the 23 percent tax cut is far less than the five-year increase in revenues.

Recall that when Mr. Clinton took office in 1993, one of his first legislative acts was to increase taxes. Revenues have increased by approximately a tenth of a percent of GDP every single quarter since Bill Clinton became president.

Revenues were 19 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 1993 when he took office. They have risen almost continuously each quarter since then, and federal revenue now stands at 21.5 percent of GDP as of fourth-quarter 1997. With the GDP at \$8 trillion, this is equivalent to a tax increase of \$8 billion every three months for the last five years.

But suppose instead the fiscal policy of the Congress had been to hold the percentage of GDP consumed by taxes constant. Government revenues would have increased over the five years by \$292 billion (24 percent), and the taxpayers would have received a tax cut of \$419 billion, which is \$1,558 per person or \$6,230 for a family of four. We could have cut federal taxes by \$172 billion last year, and taxes as a share of GDP would have been no lower than they were before Mr. Clinton became president.

Despite the small tax cut enacted by Congress in 1997, forecasts indicate revenues as a share of GDP will remain at historically high levels for the foreseeable future. Last month, the Congressional Budget Office reported that revenues will be at least 21 percent of GDP until at least the year 2000, and are expected to be at least 20 percent of GDP until the year 2050. To borrow a phrase, rapidly increasing revenues stretch as far as the eye can see.

We are living in the best of times, in peace and prosperity. Our budget is balanced, our revenues are in surplus. Yet our tax burden is as high as it has ever been—in times of peace and war, in good times or bad. Now is the time to restore some balance in our fiscal policies. Now is the time to reduce the percentage of GDP taken by taxes back to its 1992 level.

Congress could do many things with the tax code to reduce its burden on us. But the best thing, the fairest thing, is to enact a 23 percent cut in federal income taxes. By reducing federal income tax rates by 23 percent, we would effectively restore the tax burden to its pre-Clinton level.

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented economic boom, and an unprecedented period of peace. Our current federal tax levels reflect neither of these realities. When the world is at peace, the budget is balanced and the economy the strongest in decades, tax policy should reflect the times in which we now live: peace and prosperity.

The time for a tax cut is today.

## TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 15, 1998*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while I appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, and his desire to protect tropical rainforests worldwide, I wish to again go on record in strong opposition to H.R. 2870, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act.

As you know, I voiced my opposition to this when it passed the House International Relations Committee by voice vote, and voted "no" again when the House approved it by a vote of 356-61 on March 19, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, my concerns are simple. Foremost is the cost of this legislation. Specifically, the bill wastes more than \$300 million in existing resources over three years to facilitate "debt-for-nature" swaps with foreign countries.

This measure in effect forgives U.S. debts which are unlikely to be repaid fully by less developed countries. In exchange, these countries promise to protect their tropical forests. Common sense tells us a country that claims to lack the financial resources to repay its debts is unlikely to have the financial resources to restore and preserve their rain forests. More importantly, why should America pay another sovereign nation to do what is clearly their responsibility and in their own best interest? This "pay me or I'll shoot myself" scheme makes little sense.

As a businessman who survived the Texas recession in the 1980's and watched our local banks address the difficulty of non-performing loans, my other concern is a basic one: Is this the best and highest return for American loans financed by the hard-earned tax dollars of working families who struggle to make ends meet each month? The answer is no.

Loans made in good faith by United States taxpayers should be repaid in full, or in unique situations worked out for the highest and best return for the dollar. H.R. 2870, while well intentioned, is "feel good" legislation that leaves American taxpayers holding an empty bag and, I predict, will do little to preserve the world's rain forests.

#### SHARING SOLUTIONS

#### HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, last week, the President invited people to the White House so he could share his concerns on school violence.

Once again, however, I'm afraid the President is headed in the wrong direction.

He has called for a federal manual on school violence—to be created here in Washington, D.C.—and directed at our local teachers, parents, and communities.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Nevadans have a better idea. Recently, we held a "Town Summit on School Violence" in Reno Nevada to gather local input on possible solutions. Local solutions that we would then send back here to Washington, telling the President how we want to solve our own problems.

Like most states, Nevadans are tired of the Washington borne, "Washington knows best," "The Washington way or the highway," attitudes here.

Local problems require local solutions and I commend all Nevadans who supported and participated in this important event.

I would encourage all members to hold similar events throughout their districts and to

share their solutions with us—the safety and future of our children demand no less.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 284, I was unavoidable detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### RECOGNIZING VICTOR WALTERS

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of 8-year-old Victor Walters of Limon, Colorado who was recently named National Second-Grade Handwriting Champion. This is the second consecutive year he has received this national honor. The contest was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a manufacturer of pens and publisher of educational handwriting texts. Victor is the son of Ronald and Roberta Walters.

Walters, who received his award and a \$500 savings bond in a surprise ceremony at Limon Elementary School, was able to dash off the winning entry with a handicap. Victor's mother reported that the morning of the contest, his finger felt sore, but he decided to carry a Band-Aid in his backpack rather than wearing it on his hand for fear that it might hinder his writing style.

The penmanship awards won by Limon Elementary School Students have prompted the University of Colorado at Denver to conduct a research project at Limon to look at the link between good penmanship and overall academic performance.

As a Member of Congress representing the Fourth District of Colorado, I am proud of the accomplishments of this young man. Victor Walters has demonstrated his commitment to excellence and I congratulate him on his success.

Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD a copy of an article about Victor which recently appeared in the Denver Post.

BOY HANGS TOUGH, NAILS DOWN 2ND  
HANDWRITING WIN

(By Nancy Lofholm)

Not even a hangnail can stop a national handwriting champ.

Victor Walters, an 8-year-old from Limon, once again topped 125,000 other penmanship pupils across the country and was named National Second-Grade Handwriting Champion today. The contest was sponsored by Zaner-Bloser, a manufacturer of pens and publisher of educational handwriting texts.

Walters, who will receive his award and a \$500 savings bond in a surprise ceremony at Limon Elementary School this morning, was able to dash off the winning entry with a handicap.

His mother, Roberta Walters, said he had a sore finger the morning of the competition and was afraid he wouldn't be able to write

well. He opted to carry a Band-Aid in his backpack rather than putting it on his finger, where it might hinder his writing style.

"He was worried, but when he came home he was real excited. He knew he did real well that day," said Walters. "He didn't have to erase very often."

What he didn't know until this morning was that he had won the award for the second year in a row. His parents and teachers in the Eastern Plains town of 2,500 wanted to keep the award under wraps until Victor could be honored in front of his 350 fellow students.

"He's been real antsy waiting to hear," said his dad, Ronald Walters.

Ronald, a case manager at the state correctional facility in Limon, said his son's talent—one he doesn't believe was inherited—has affected his own on-the-job script. "My writing's not too good," Ronald said. "I find myself scribbling, and I think of my son and try to bring myself back into line again."

Victor's back-to-back achievements, as well as Limon student Bethany Head's win at the state level in her first-grade class three years ago, have also affected the school.

Principal Valerie Bass said the University of Colorado at Denver will be doing a research project at Limon to look at the link between good penmanship and overall academic performance. "We're very proud. A lot of our students have good penmanship," Bass said.

Someday, Victor may be doing his bit to carry on that tradition. He wants to be a teacher. His parents said he plays school every day with his 5-year-old sister, Ashley, and penmanship is one of the favorite play-school subjects.

Zaner-Bloser gives out the penmanship awards annually to promote good penmanship and also to publicize the pitfalls of messy writing. The company has compiled statistics showing that 38 million letters go undelivered annually because of illegible addresses, 58 percent of information on hospital charts is illegible and 66 percent of teachers say schools should place a higher priority on handwriting.

#### PATIENT PROTECTION ACT

#### HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 16, 1998

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the House Republican Health Care Proposal, the Patient Protection Act. I believe this bill strikes a good balance between protecting patient rights without the heavy hand of big government. I am excited about many of the large protections in this bill, like giving patients a better and quicker appeal process when the HMO denies their claim, lifting any gag orders on physicians to ensure that patients are better informed, and providing greater access to specialists for women and children. I am equally excited about how this bill addresses the frustrating problems that upset so many people about their HMOs.

I am sure that many of you are like me in that every week I get a letter or call from someone upset because the HMO decides that the plan will no longer cover a specific prescription drug. Our bill will require HMOs to give at least 30 days notice before the HMO can remove a drug from the coverage list. These 30 days are essential in the care of the